



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

March 20, 2013

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Senate Bill 1137 - An Act Concerning School-Based Health Centers

The Department of Public Health (DPH) supports Section 1 of Senate Bill 1137. This section is consistent with a 2011 recommendation of the Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee in its study entitled "Adolescent Health Coordination and School Based Health Centers in Connecticut: RBA Project 2011" to codify the federal definition of school based health center contained within the Social Security Act.

The Department opposes Sections 2 and 5. These sections broaden the scope and purpose of the school-based advisory committee to include the development of recommendations for statutory and regulatory changes for all school-based health centers (SBHCs); the establishment of uniform standards; the development of a state-wide SBHC plan inclusive of mechanisms for the centers to receive reimbursement from private health insurance and Medicaid; and protocols for SBHC reporting. The bill does not redefine the composition of the committee to reflect the broadened scope. Comprehensive representation should include all types of sponsoring agencies – these would include Boards of Education, community health centers, and hospitals.

The Department licenses all school-based health centers as outpatient clinics, but provides funding to a subset of those. All school-based health centers, those receiving DPH funding, as well as those that do not, should be represented on the committee. The committee should also include other stakeholders such as a family advocate or parent, the CT American Academy of Pediatrics, and the Commission on Children. Furthermore, the Department has no jurisdiction over reimbursement mechanisms, nor does it receive reports from SBHCs that do not receive funding from the Department. Therefore DPH could not implement committee recommendations concerning those elements.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's views on this bill.

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